

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2902

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: MASS, DA
SUBJECT: LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER REPLACEMENT: DANISH UNCERTAINTIES

1. WE ARE DISTRUBED OVER THE LACK OF PRECISION ON THE PART OF RESPONSIBLE DANISH OFFICIALS, INCLUDING DEFENSE MINISTER BRONDEUM, ABOUT THE TIMING OF CRITICAL DECISIONS ON THE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER REPLACEMENT. PART OF THIS LACK OF PREVISION IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RELUCTANCE TO TALK ABOUT THE NEED TO SPEND ABOUT \$250 MILLION ON WARPLANES AT A TIME WHEN THE DANISH ECONOMY IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. FURTHERMORE, FEW LEADING POLITICIANS APPEAR AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE AND WHAT IT WILL REQUIRE OF THE DANISH PARLIAMENT. AS AN EXAMPLE, HENNING CHRISTOPHERSEN, THE ABLE PARLIAMENTARY POLITICAL SPOKESMAN OF THE GOVERNING LIBERAL PARTY AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, SUGGESTED TO POLCOUNS THAT DENMARK MIGHT DEFER A DECISION ON FIGHTER REPLACEMENT FOR "TWO OR THREE MORE YEARS" BUT STILL PARTICIPATE IN THE BENEFIT FROM THE CONSORTIUMS LARGE BUY AND OFFSETS. POLCOUNS POINTED OUT THE IMPLAUSIBILITY OF SUCH AN

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EXPECTATION AND NOTED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT IN ORDER

TO ACCOMMODATE THE DELIVERY REQUIREMENTS OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONSORTIUM, A PURCHASE DECISION HAS TO BE MADE EARLY IN 1975. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT QUESTIONS OF OFFSET, CO-PRODUCTIO ETC, WERE PROBABLY INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO THE PURCHASE DECISION.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON WHEN PROCUREMENT DECISIONS MUST BE MADE BY THE MEMBERS OF THE CONSORTIUM. MUST PARTIAL PAYMENT BE MADE AT THE TIME OF COMMITMENT, AND IF SO HOW MUCH? IS IT FEASIBLE FOR DANES TO ENTERTAIN THE HOPE THAT THEY CAN GAIN THE ADVANTAGES OF A CONSORTIUM PURCHASE AND AT THE SAME TIME DEFER A COMMITEMENT FOR "TWO OR THREE YEARS"?

CROWE

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